

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/661,566

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claims 16 and 17 have been canceled. New claim 18, directed to an electrophotographic material, has been added. Section 112 support for claim 18 may be found, for example, at page 24, lines 18-22 of the specification.

Upon entry of the Amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 1-15 and 18 will be pending.

At page 2 of the Action, claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 16 and 17 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, on the ground that the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process.

In view of the cancellation of claims 16 and 17, the rejections under § 112, second paragraph, and § 101 are moot.

At page 3 of the Action, claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Hutkin '576.

Applicant submits that this rejection should be withdrawn because Hutkin '576 does not disclose or render obvious either the method for producing a powder-coated support of present claims 1-11, the powder-coated support of present claims 12-15, or the electrophotographic material comprising a powder-coated support of new claim 18.

The present invention claimed in Claims 1 to 11 is directed to a method for producing a powder-coated support, which comprises the steps of: applying a powdery resin composition to at

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least one side of a base paper, the powdery resin composition containing at least a thermoplastic resin; and hot-pressing the powdery resin composition on the base paper.

The present invention claimed in Claims 12 to 15 is directed to a powder-coated support which comprises: a base paper; and a resin layer disposed on at least one side of the base, wherein the powder-coated support is produced by: applying a powdery resin composition to at least one side of the base paper, the powdery resin composition containing at least a thermoplastic resin; and hot-pressing the powdery resin composition on the base paper to thereby fuse and solidify the powdery resin composition to form the resin layer.

New claim 18 relates to an electrophotographic material comprising a powder-coated support and a toner-image-receiving layer on the powder-coated support. The powder-coated support comprises a base paper and a resin layer disposed on at least one side of the base. The powder-coated support is produced by applying a powdery resin composition to at least one side of the base paper, the powdery resin composition containing at least a thermoplastic resin; and hot-pressing the powdery resin composition on the base paper to thereby fuse and solidify the powdery resin composition to form the resin layer.

Hutkin '576 discloses a copper foil on which powdered resin particles are applied, which is used in the manufacture of a printed circuit. However, the copper foil of Hutkin is not the base paper of the present invention, let alone a paper of any type. In other words, the copper foil-powdery resin structure of Hutkin is structurally distinguished and different from the base paper-powdery resin structure of the present invention.

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Moreover, the present invention and Hutkin '576 are in mutually different technical fields so that the present invention and Hutkin '576 differ in technical features, problems to be solved, and expected effects.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-17 based on Hutkin '576 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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